

Chapter 1
INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND
Colorado Springs Airport

INTRODUCTION

This chapter summarizes the guiding principles, and goals and objectives for the Colorado Springs Airport Master Plan.

Guiding Principles

Guiding principles provide the foundation of the planning effort by providing the roadmap for a successful project. If the planning effort adheres to the guiding principles set forth at the outset, the project will have a high likelihood of yielding successful results. In addition, the guiding principles provide interested parties a high-level explanation of the purpose for the master planning process. The following are the guiding principles for the Colorado Springs Airport master planning process.

- The recommended development plan should give priority to safety and security, followed by financial feasibility, operational efficiency, environmental prudence, and social responsibility; the plan should be beneficial to all users of the Airport, and the positive customer experience must be maintained or enhanced.
- Airport development plans should preserve flexibility to permit changes to the plan as industry and local conditions warrant.
- The planning effort will seek to foster consensus among key stakeholders, including Airport users, the FAA, the Airport Advisory Commission, and the Airport staff.
- The master planning process will employ a focused public involvement program to inform interested parties as to the Airport's positive community impacts as well as future plans.
- Future development at the Airport shall continue to be self-funded by users of the airport and aviation system; no local sales or property taxes will be used to fund Airport capital improvements.
- The master planning process shall emphasize cost effective solutions and shall consider the total cost of implementation when evaluating alternatives.
- Planning for future facilities will consider the role of emerging technologies and industry trends that could affect the requirements for future facilities.

- The master planning process shall incorporate Business park plans and identify potential synergies between its future development and the development of the rest of the Airport.

Goals and Objectives

Goals and objectives build upon the foundation set by the guiding principles. The goals and objectives are used to evaluate whether or not a planning concept is viable as the recommended development plan. Accordingly, the alternatives screening criteria will be developed based on these goals and objectives. Airport management identified goals for the airfield, passenger terminal, land use and access, sustainability, and social responsibility. Each of the goals has an accompanying list of objectives. Alternatives will be judged relative to one another with regard to their performance in meeting or exceeding the objectives set forth below.

Airfield – plan for a safe, operationally efficient airfield that meets FAA standards.

- a) Eliminate existing modifications to standards as soon as feasibly practical and do not create conditions warranting additional modifications or waivers from the FAA;
- b) Ensure that planning concepts support the Airport’s ability to maintain airfield pavement conditions in a cost-effective manner;
- c) Consider the use of emerging technologies within the planning period to enhance the overall efficiency of the airfield complex;
- d) Coordinate with pilots and local air traffic control to identify any airfield issues of concern and address those that can be done so in a practical manner.

Passenger terminal – provide plans that will help maintain a positive customer service experience throughout the entire terminal complex, from the entrance road and parking lots to the aircraft gate.

- a) Maintain or improve the existing level of service throughout the planning horizon for the entrance roadway, parking lots, terminal curbside, ticketing lobby, security checkpoints and screening processes, departure holdrooms, baggage claim lobby, and rental car facilities;
- b) Provide a balanced suite of airport concessions that delight our passengers and generate revenue for the Airport;
- c) Ensure that the capital investment strategy for the passenger terminal provides sufficient flexibility to enable the Airport to adapt to industry changes.
- d) Provide ideas and concepts for the creative re-use of terminal building components that may become obsolete or redundant due to industry or technological changes throughout the planning period.

Land use and access – provide a plan to enhance Airport access and encourage compatible land use surrounding the Airport.

- a) Ensure that appropriate property is reserved for development/expansion of airport functional elements, including general aviation, air cargo, and aircraft maintenance;
- b) Promote consistency with Peterson Air Force Base mission expansion plans;
- c) Fully integrate Airport and Cresterra Business Park plans to ensure compatibility and optimization of shared infrastructure;
- d) Provide the information necessary to assist the Airport, FAA, and military in protecting the airspace and promoting compatible land use surrounding the Airport and Peterson Air Force Base;
- e) Participate in cooperative regional transportation planning to improve access to the Airport, including but not limited to access to/from Interstate 25.

Sustainability – provide a plan that is fiscally and environmentally sustainable.

- a) Ensure the development plan is fiscally responsible from both the capital and operational cost perspectives;
- b) Wherever prudent, make use of existing facilities through renewal or modernization to meet future demand;
- c) Wherever possible, provide plans that will diversify airport revenues and strengthen the financial position of the Airport;
- d) Seek to improve the Airport's competitive position in the region by reducing airline rates and charges;
- e) Seek to minimize adverse environmental impacts of future development while reducing the impact of existing facilities;
- f) Seek to identify opportunities for the siting and feasible application of renewable energy sources;
- g) Produce new mapping of the Airport to ensure that all analysis is based on the most up-to-date, accurate information available.

Social responsibility – provide a plan that meets the aviation needs of the region in a socially responsible manner.

- a) Seek input and when practical address the concerns of stakeholders and users of the airport, all the while enhancing existing relationships with stakeholders and the wider community;
- b) Provide a plan that is responsive to the needs of the community while preserving flexibility to make changes when conditions warrant;
- c) Ensure that the Airport's positive impacts on the community are communicated;
- d) Ensure that the needs of the military and business community are addressed in future plans.